(b) and (c) These facilities have been provided at all stations which a workload of 300 and above reservation related transactions per day. The lesser volume of reservation work at other stations does not at present justify the provision of these facilities.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) It is not proposed to provide this facility at Kotdwar station as the volume of reservation work as this station does justify provision of this facility.

Privatisation *of* catering services in the Railways

5576. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposall to privatise catering services in every long distance train;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in that direction; and

(c) the number of Railway employees belonging to catering services going to be affected due to privatisation?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) As per extant policy, contracts of only new catering units including pantry cars on trains are being awarded to reputed and pro-fessional Caterers selected on the basis of applications invited through press notifications.

(c) Does not arise.

Procurement of wagons

5577. DR. B. DUTTA: Will the Min ister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the procurement of wagons by the Railways during the Sixth and the Seventh Five Year Plans;

(b) how far the target has been achieved during the First three years of the Eight Five Year Plan;

(c) the wagon shortfall experienced by the Railways at present; and

(d) the steps taken by the Railways to remove the problem of wagon shortage?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF). (a) The number of wagons procured by the Railways during the two Plan periods was as follows:—

Period	No. of four wheeler units
VI Plan (1980-81 to 1984-85) . .	73,027 5
VII Plan (1985-86 to 1989-90) . .	89755.5

(b) Against 'the revised target of 81,000 Brbad Gauge wagons in terms of four wheeler units to be acquired during the VIII Plan, during the first three years, 57116 Broad Gauge wagons in terms of four wheeler units have been procured, including 1425 wagons (in F.W.Us) outstanding for supply as on 31.3.1995.

(c) and (d) The demand for rail way wagons for carrying goods traffic is met satisfactorily. Railways general ly experience seasonality of traffic during the year leading to alternat ing low and peak demands for wagons. The acquisition of wagons is need-based and during 1995-96, 12,000 wagons in terms of four wheel er units are proposed to be acquired against Rolling Stock Programme. In addition, a sizeable quantity of wagons is also expected to be added in 1995-96 under 'Own Your Wagon Scheme'.